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**San Diego County Water Authority**

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REPRESENTATIVE**

County of San Diego

March 10, 2019

Gloria Gray, Chairwoman  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
700 N. Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Board Memo 8-1: Authorize participation in the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan<sup>i</sup>

Dear Chairwoman Gray:

The Water Authority has reviewed Board Memo 8-1 and is, independently, very familiar with the facts and circumstances driving the need for the Drought Contingency Plans (DCP) to lower the risk of reaching critically low reservoir elevations at Lake Mead. The Water Authority very much appreciates the extraordinary efforts being made by the Bureau of Reclamation and State of California to secure these voluntary agreements,<sup>ii</sup> as well as your ongoing efforts and those of Metropolitan staff. We appreciate the present need for action and support California in seeking congressional approval of the DCP. We also recognize that there are many issues that must be addressed going forward for successful, cost-effective implementation of the DCP.

As you know, the Water Authority is in a unique position to contribute substantially to raise Lake Mead elevation with its Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS)-qualified water, paid for solely by Water Authority ratepayers. These water supplies presently include 277,000 acre-feet of canal lining and conserved transfer water from the Quantification Settlement Agreement and up to 56,000 acre-feet of water produced by the Carlsbad seawater desalination plant. These independent local water supplies will increase in coming years.<sup>iii</sup>

I will contact you in the near future to arrange a time to get together with our respective staff. We look forward to engaging further with you and the Bureau of Reclamation on these important issues. In the meantime, we ask that you include

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this letter in the record at next week's Water Planning and Stewardship Committee and Board meetings.

Best regards,



Jim Madaffer

Chair, San Diego County Water Authority

cc: Water Authority Board of Directors  
Sandy Kerl, Acting General Manager  
MWD Board of Directors  
Jeff Kightlinger, General Manager

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<sup>i</sup> The Board Memo Subject line states: "Authorize participation in the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan **on behalf of California**" (emphasis added). We suggest clarifying this because as written, it sounds as though the MWD Board has authority to commit the State of California. We do understand that MWD is taking on risk, obligations and potential benefits of this agreement, but the phrase "on behalf of California" could cause confusion with respect to the MWD's action. We recommend deleting this phrase from the board action and instead making it clear that the intent is to support California seeking congressional approval of the DCP: *Authorize participation in the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan and Support the State of California seeking congressional approval of the DCP.*

<sup>ii</sup> We appreciate discussions and confirming our understanding that the voluntary agreements do not modify the 2007 Interim Guidelines and agreements.

<sup>iii</sup> We note that Metropolitan has developed new ICS Exhibits that include Water Authority projects. These supplies are governed by the Interim Guidelines. (ROD for Interim Guidelines, Section 3(B)(8), p.41).